THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The project, which is to cost Rs. 243.71 crores, is being fully financed by Government in a 60:40 grant-cum-loan ratio.

(c) Power is already being bought from Bhutan on an ad-hoc basis. An agreement for long-term purchase is to be finalised.

Quality check on Edibles sold at Railway Stations

3250. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the mechanism to check the quality of edibles sold at railway stations by the vendors and the number of raids conducted by the Railway authorities to check the quality of edibles during the last three years; and

(b) what are the details of action taken by the Railway authorities against those vendors who have been found selling substandard, impure or adulterated foodstuffs and edibles?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Inspections are conducted by officials of Commercial and Medical Departments to check the quality of food and service. During 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, 50,655 inspections were conducted by Commercial Officers and 30,667 food samples were drawn by the Medical Department for testing.

(b) Action taken include warning, fine, termination of contracts, departmental action against staff and prosecution under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Complaints regarding poor service in railway refreshment rooms

3251. DR MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of complaints received regarding poor service and inferior quality of foods, tea and snacks of pantry car and railway refreshment rooms during the last three years, zone-wise; and

(b) what are the details of action taken by the Railway authorities in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) The total number of complaints received during the last three years regarding poor quality of food served at stations and on trains is given in the attached statement (*See below*). Separate figures for refreshment rooms are, however, not available.

(b) Complaints are investigated and based on the results of investigations action is taken against the contractor, staff responsible. Action taken includes warnings, fines, termination of contract and disciplinary action against staff.

Statement

Railway	Number of complaints received during the last three years 85-86 86-87 and 87-88
Central	754
Northern	345
North Eastern	27
Northeast Frontiers	53
Southern	189
South Central	101
South Estern	663
Eastern	146
Western	743

Trains reaching late/in time

3252. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of RAIL-